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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [BU](#)
SUBJECT: REPLY TO EMBASSY REQUEST FOR BULGARIA TO BE
INVITED TO THE NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT

REF: SOFIA 697

1.(U) This is an action request. Please see para 3.

2.(SBU) Washington wishes to inform Post that all invitations to President Obama's Nuclear Security Summit have been issued and that additional invitations will not/not be extended to any more countries, including to Bulgaria. However, this decision does not discount Bulgaria's important contributions in achieving U.S. nonproliferation and nuclear security goals, as well as support for U.S. positions on critical nonproliferation issues, such as Iran and North Korean. All questions and comments related to the Summit should be addressed to Laura Holgate and Joyce Connery at the National Security Council and to Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins at the Department of State. State EUR POC is Nate Young (YoungNH@State.sgov.gov).

3.(U) At its discretion, Post may draw from the following Q&As and talking points if the Government of Bulgaria asks about the process that went into choosing Summit participants.

[1Q.](#) How did you choose invitees?

[1A.](#) We chose a representative, rather than an exhaustive, list of invitees to include those with significant material holdings, nuclear fuel cycle facilities, advanced and nascent nuclear energy programs, and involvement in various international regimes.

[1Q.](#) Why were some countries excluded?

[1A.](#) There was not an attempt to exclude any one country; there was simply a need to limit participants in order to have a robust dialogue. This summit is intended to lay the groundwork for activities that can support the President's call for an international effort to improve the security of vulnerable nuclear materials within four years. We anticipate and welcome working with as many nations as possible on this critical effort, which impacts us all.

(Additional Talking Points specific to Bulgaria):

--The United States recognizes and praises Bulgarian efforts to advance our shared nonproliferation and nuclear security goals.

--In particular, we recognize Bulgaria's excellent partnership in implementing U.S. assistance to secure facilities that contain radiological sources, enhance nuclear export controls and repatriate highly-enriched uranium (HEU) to Russia.

--Unfortunately, we could only extend a limited number of invitations to the Summit.

--There was no attempt to exclude Bulgaria specifically. Nor was this decision in any way a judgment on Bulgaria's nonproliferation or nuclear security record. Rather, in

selecting participants, our efforts were to ensure a representative list of invitees from around the world. As a result, we were unable to extend an invitation to Bulgaria to this particular summit.

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